

Art 2379: Beginning Ceramics

Fall 2026: Tuesday/Thursday, 11 am – 1:50 pm, ARC 139

Merrie Wright, Professor of Studio Art

Contact: mewright@uttyler.edu | 903-566-7423 (office)

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 2 – 2:30 pm, Wednesday, 11 am – 1 pm (please make an appointment)

Purpose/Objectives

Beginning Ceramics is designed as an introduction to studio ceramics for the student with little or no ceramics background. It is intended that the course provide the student with fundamental knowledge regarding ceramic vocabulary, materials, tools, methods of construction, surface resolution and firing. The course is designed to broaden the students understanding of clay as a fine art material and extend the students capacity for practical application of 2D and 3D design considerations. *Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.*

BFA Student Learning Outcomes

Technical Proficiency: Students will be able to create technically proficient works of art.

Conceptual Proficiency: Students will be able to create conceptually proficient works of art.

Interpretation of Artworks: Students will be able to explain how formal or conceptual elements function in works of art.

Historical Context: The student will be able to contextualize works of art in relation to art history or contemporary practices.

Document Works: Students will be able to document works of art for the purpose of archiving, application, and presentation.

Disseminate Research: Students will be able to disseminate research through exhibition participation.

Course Delivery Mode & Course Calendar

This is a face-to-face course. The scheduled class time will be used for studio time, critiques, and kiln loading/firing. Additional course assignments will be completed online through Canvas. A detailed course calendar will be provided. In the event that the course delivery mode is changed to online this class will be synchronous, meaning that we will complete the scheduled class activities, such as critiques, online during the scheduled class time.

Attendance & Studio Time

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken promptly at the beginning of each class. During the semester you are allowed 3 absences, excused or unexcused. Students who miss more than 3 classes will be dropped one letter grade for the course, each additional absence lowers the final grade another letter grade. If you arrive late or leave early it is counted as an absence. This class requires daily participation, which means you must be here. Please note that in-class participation is a part of your final grade. Missed demonstrations, lectures, or critiques will not be repeated. It is your responsibility to make up for any missed class time. Students who anticipate being absent from class due to religious observance should inform the instructor in writing by the end of the second week of class. Faculty should initial the request to indicate approval. In addition to the above class time and attendance discussed above, you must also plan to come in “outside of class” for an additional 5-10 hours (as necessary) per week, in order to complete the course work. It is simply not possible to work in the studio for only 5 hours per week and complete the course work necessary to pass this class.

Technical Requirements

This course will utilize Canvas and Zoom (only if needed), as well as other digital resources through Canvas. Students will need access to a computer with video and microphone, and a high-speed internet connection. Students must be able to download and upload complete files (doc, docx, or pdf) with text and images, attach documents to emails or discussion postings, and download and upload documents to the assignment tool in Canvas. Students have access to the Computer Lab and Library on the UT Tyler campus.

Canvas

This course utilizes Canvas. You will find all course materials and requirements on the Canvas page for the course, including: the syllabus, course calendar, assignments, and quizzes. You will also find additional resources and technical information on Canvas. All course announcements will be communicated through Canvas, so please check the site frequently.

Professional Communication

When referring to any faculty member, please remember that they all have earned a high degree of respect, and should be referred to, or addressed as “Professor”, or “Dr.”. In any academic situation, sticking with “Professor” is the safest path, until you have been invited to address your professors otherwise, even then, I would be circumspect as to the propriety of doing otherwise. Likewise, engagements with university and departmental staff members should be equally respectful. Please understand that the staff members are critical partners in the department. Please refer to them as Mr./Mrs./Ms.

Office Hours & Email Etiquette

I am here to help you and I want each of you to do well in this course! I am always available to meet with you. It is always best for you to make an appointment with me during my office hours or, if this does not fit your schedule, we can arrange an alternate meeting time. The best way to contact me is through email. I will check and respond to emails during the workweek, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. I will do my best to answer promptly, please allow 24 hours for a response. If you contact me through email, please use formal email etiquette and use your UT Tyler student email address if you wish to get a response.

Recommended Text

Clay and Glazes for the Potter, Daniel Rhodes

Val Cushing's Handbook

The Potter's Workbook, Clary Illian

Functional Pottery, Robin Hopper

Ceramic Glaze Handbook, Mark Bursleson

The Complete Guide to High-Fire Glazes: Glazing & Firing at Cone 10, John Britt

There is no required text for this class.

Class Participation

The running of a ceramic studio is a community endeavor, as is the learning process. As such, class participation is an important aspect of this course. You are required to be an active participant by assisting in the maintenance of the studio, participating in course dialog and critiques, loading and unloading kilns, etc.

Final Grade

Your final grade for the course will be based upon completion of the following:

10%	Quizzes
10%	Critiques
10%	Research Assignment
70%	Ceramic Assignments

Numeric to Letter Grade Translation: 100 - 90% = A 89 - 80% = B 79 - 70% = C 69 - 60% = D 59 - 0% = F

Remember, *Teachers do not give grades; students earn them!*

Additional Information in regards to grades and course requirements:

- Poor attendance/participation and non-adherence to deadlines will result in a lowered grade. Remember, you will be working two to three times as much outside of class as in class.
- This class has no final examination.

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Classroom Etiquette

It is important to keep the studio clean and to maintain a healthy working environment. Maintenance of the studio is a daily responsibility. It includes cleaning up your workspace, and all of the equipment used. Additional clean-up will be required at the end of each class period. Please take care in moving other student work, and be respectful to the work of other students and their spaces. Leave everything in better shape than when found! **Keep all cell phones and headphones turned off during class time!**

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and in extreme cases will result in the expulsion of the student from class. Examples of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to, habitually arriving late or leaving early from class, talking during instruction and failure to listen to directions.

Artificial Intelligence

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. AI is not permitted in this course at all. All work students submit for this course should be their own. All assignments and class activities are carefully designed to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming, may not be used. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

Studio Safety & Maintenance

Students are required to use appropriate safety equipment and practice safe operation procedures when using any hazardous equipment or materials. The student should only use these materials and equipment after the instructor has given instruction in the safe use of such equipment and materials. The instructor has the right and responsibility to suspend any art student from operating a piece of equipment if the instructor believes the student is incapable of operating the equipment in a safe manner. This is done so not to jeopardize the health and safety of the student or other members of the class.

- Students in studio classes are required to clean up and put away supplies that have been used during the class session.
- Children and non-registered students are not allowed in the studio at any time.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the studio at any time.
- Radio use in the studio is restricted to the use of personal headphones (not during class).
- A first aid kit is located in the studio.

Facility Access & Studio Lab Safety and Mechanical Safety Training

Studio facility access is for enrolled students only. Students are required to use appropriate safety equipment (PPE) and practice safe operation procedures when using any hazardous equipment or materials. All students must successfully complete the Art Studio Safety Training and quizzes on Canvas and turn in a signed Safety Manual Contract for each studio you are enrolled in. After-hours passes are required to access the studios after normal business hours and on weekends; these passes will be issued via Patriots email once all trainings and contracts have been completed. Failure to adhere to the terms of the Safety Manual Contract will result in the loss of studio facility access.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

For your safety, you must follow all safety requirements established by the department and university. It is required that you provide your own Personal Protective Equipment for use in studio areas. This equipment includes: dust mask with at least a N95 rating and attached filter, safety glasses, ear protection, gloves, close-toed shoes, and appropriate clothing. Failure to use this equipment while working may result in the loss of studio privileges.

Materials and Chemicals

Any additional materials or chemicals not included on the course material list must be approved by the faculty member in charge of the area where the chemical (material) will be used prior to the material/chemical being brought into the studio. Students are responsible for notifying the studio technician of any new materials/chemicals the day they are brought to the studio to ensure that the appropriate Safety Data Sheet is on file and in the SDS binder.

Labels for any new, approved chemicals brought into the art studios must include the following information when they are transferred to a new container or if the original chemical label is damaged: Name of Chemical, Date chemical was opened, and any basic hazards associated with the chemical. Labels are located in each studio and must be filled out and adhered to the container immediately.

Storage/Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker with a partner. Due to space limitations clay and tools may not be stored in the classroom unless being used at the time. Any clay or tools found will be removed. You should store your materials in your locker or elsewhere, bringing to class only what you need to work with.

Student Resources and University Policies

Please see the Getting Started & UTT Syllabus module in Canvas for a full list of student resources and university policies.

* This syllabus is subject to change

**Please see UT Tyler's academic calendar for all important academic deadlines and dates. Important dates for critiques and assignments will be posted on Canvas, announced in class, and stated on handouts. There are no required fieldtrips for this course.

*** A separate list of all required materials and supplies will be provided.